

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION DENVER REGIONAL OFFICE

Byron G. Rogers Federal Building 1961 Stout Street Suite 1700 Denver, CO 80294-1961

July 31, 2015



Via E-Mail and Overnight Mail

Honorable Jason S. Patil Administrative Law Judge 100 F Street, N.E. Mail Stop 2557 Washington, D.C. 20549

Re: In the Matter of Delaney, Admin Proc. No. 3-15873

Dear Judge Patil:

It would be contrary to the Commission's own rules, binding precedent, and common sense to make a determination as to whether the Division's position was substantially justified without considering the evidence – all of the evidence – that informed that judgment. Indeed, it would be fundamentally unfair to exclude such evidence where that evidence has been available to Mr. Delaney since this matter was instituted, particularly because that evidence could not have been admitted during the hearing. The evidence included in the Division's Answer is critical information considered by the Division in making charging decisions, is now part of the administrative record, and should be considered in determining the merits of Mr. Delaney's EAJA claim, particularly since Mr. Delaney has taken the position that the Division was never justified in bringing its case.

Additional Evidence the Division Seeks to Introduce

As an initial matter, the evidence presented at the hearing alone is sufficient to demonstrate that the Division was substantially justified in bringing and maintaining a case against Delaney based on his participation in Penson's violations of Rule 204. The appropriateness of the Division's position, however, is further supported by evidence that was not introduced during the hearing but was available to all parties and did, in fact, inform the Division's charging and litigation decisions. This evidence is further evidence of Delaney's knowledge of Penson's violations and Penson's financial motivation to engage in the violative conduct. More importantly, because these pieces of evidence are consistent with each other, with other evidence introduced at trial, and with a reading of Delaney's *Wells* submission that admits his knowledge, it confirms that the Division's interpretation of other evidence that is part of the hearing record, such as Delaney's admissions, was reasonable.

As to Delaney's knowledge of violations, the Division seeks to supplement the record with Michael Johnson's investigative testimony. (See, e.g., Div. Answer at 19.) The Division offers this testimony as additional evidence that the Division's position that Delaney knew or was reckless in not knowing of Penson's Rule 204 violations was reasonable and that the Division's interpretation of Delaney's admissions of awareness of those violations in his Wells submission was also reasonable. Although the Division was ultimately unable to elicit this precise testimony at the hearing, the investigative testimony demonstrates that the Division had substantial justification for believing it could establish a factual basis

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for Delaney's awareness when it brought the case. The Division also seeks to supplement the record with Rudy DeLaSierra's investigative testimony, and Brian Gover's investigative testimony and declaration. (See, e.g., Div. Answer at 18-20.) These statements are offered to show that the testimony of these witnesses was consistent throughout and demonstrate the Division substantial justification for believing it could establish Delaney's awareness of the violations, as well as that the Division's interpretation of Delaney's admissions of awareness in his Wells submission was reasonable.

As to financial motive, the Division seeks to supplement the record with Lindsey Wetzig's investigative testimony. (See, e.g., Div. Answer at 33.) This testimony is offered to show that his hearing testimony was consistent with his pre-hearing testimony, and to show that the Division's interpretation of Delaney's admissions concerning Penson's "huge financial incentive" was reasonable and that the Division had substantial justification for believing it could establish an allegation of financial motive when it brought the case. The Division also seeks to supplement the record with Michael Johnson's investigative testimony, Brian Gover's declaration, and Brian Hall's investigative testimony. (See, e.g., Div. Answer at 32-33.) These statements are offered to show that the Division's interpretation of Delaney's admissions concerning "huge financial incentive" was reasonable and that the Division had substantial justification for believing it could establish an allegation of financial motive when it brought the case.

Whether Such Evidence Could Have Been Introduced During the Hearing

The majority of this evidence could not have been admitted into evidence during the hearing. Commission Rule of Practice 235 limits the admissibility of prior sworn statements at an administrative hearing and it is the practice not to admit such evidence when the witness is testifying at the hearing. Brian Gover's declaration, the investigative testimony of Rudy DeLaSierra, Brian Gover, Lindsey Wetzig, and Brian Hall, and the majority of Michael Johnson's investigative testimony could not have been introduced as those prior statements were not plainly inconsistent with the hearing testimony.²

Whether the Relevant Investigative Testimony was Admitted at the Flanagan Hearing

No investigative testimony was admitted at the underlying *Flanagan* hearing. (Exhibit A.) Nor was any investigative testimony used to impeach Mr. Holloway. (Exhibit B.) In fact, it appears that in *Flanagan*, unlike in this case, there was no investigative testimony supporting the Division's position, but that the Division relied on interviews in making its allegations. At the *Flanagan* hearing, the Division conceded that it had been unable to provide evidence of Holloway's control, saying, during argument on a Motion for Summary Disposition:

[T]he division in its previous – this is not in evidence, your Honor – in its previous conversations with Mr. Holloway had been informed that he as the patriarch of the family

¹ The testimony elicited at trial from Johnson was close to the investigative testimony and established that Delaney knew or should have known of the violations. (See Div. Answer at 19.) The Division was substantially justified in concluding that the trial testimony, together with DeLaSierra's, Gover's, and Delaney's trial testimony, established, at least, recklessness.

² The Division possibly could have impeached Michael Johnson's hearing statement that he did not know what Delaney knew with his investigative testimony.

was the one who handled all the investments. His testimony in the record, your Honor, did not support that, so the evidence is not there, your Honor. Flanagan hearing transcript at p. 550, 18-14 (Exhibit C) (emphasis added).

Despite the fact that no investigative testimony or other evidence of Holloway's control had been offered at the hearing, the Commission found, on the basis of statements made to the Division prior to the hearing, that the Division had substantial justification for believing it could establish a factual basis for this allegation when it brought the case, even though it was ultimately unable to adduce the evidence the hearing. *Michael Flanagan*, 2004 WL 1538526 at *7 (July 7, 2004).

Such a conclusion is hardly surprising as the Commission's Rules of Practice specifically provide that the Division's answer in an EAJA proceeding may include "facts not already in the record of the proceeding." See 17 C.F.R. § 201.52(c) ("If the answer is based on an alleged facts not already in the record of the proceeding, it shall include supporting affidavits or a request for further proceeding under § 201.55.") The investigative testimony and declaration included with the Division's Answer are precisely what the Commission's rules contemplate and are equivalent to an affidavit. See, e.g., SEC v. American Commodity Exch., 546 F.2d 1361, 1369 (10th Cir. 1976); SEC v. Research Automation Corp., 585 F.2d 31, 34 n. 5 (2nd Cir. 1978); SEC v. Phan, 500 F.3d 895, 913 (9th Cir. 2007). As exhibits to the Division's Answer, they are now part of the hearing record. See 17 C.F.R. § 350(a)(2). The Division has properly included those sworn statements to support facts not already in the record.

Basis for Consideration of Investigative Testimony and Declaration

Fairness and common sense also require that Your Honor consider this evidence. First, it makes sense that the Court consider all of the evidence on the question before it: whether "the position taken by the Division in the adversary adjudication [and] the action ... upon which the adversary adjudication is based" was "substantially justified." 17. C.F.R. § 201.35(a). This evidence, by definition, includes the evidence available to the Division prior to the hearing, including investigative testimony. Investigative testimony is critical evidence in almost every enforcement matter, serves as a basis for seeking Commission authorization to bring that matter, and is produced to respondents as a matter of course. See 17 C.F.R. § 201.230. In addition, as Your Honor already noted during oral argument on Mr. Delaney's EAJA application, any contrary holding would only result in the Division being forced to attempt to build a voluminous and burdensome hearing record to protect against unlikely, but possible, EAJA motions. Moreover, as noted above, those efforts would still likely not result in the necessary evidence being in the record.

Flanagan makes clear that the Court should look beyond the evidence offered at the hearing to understand the justification for the Division's position when it brought the case, rather than after the Court has made evidentiary and credibility findings. Flanagan and 17 C.F.R. §201.52(c) both provide the basis for considering the additional evidence included in the Division's Answer as part of the hearing record and as additional evidence of the Division's substantial justification.³

³ I may have misspoken when I stated that there was no conflict between the allowable rates. 17 C.F.R. §36(b) allows a rate of \$75, while 5 USC §504(b)(1)(a) allows a fee of \$125. There is no conflict, however, between the Commission's rule and the cost of living escalator in 28 USC § 2412(2)(A) cited by Delaney. The Commission does not have, nor is it required to have, such an escalator. See 5 USC §504(b)(1)(a); 17 C.F.R. §36(b).

Sincerely,

Polly Atkinson Trial Counsel

Division of Enforcement

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BEFORE THE

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

U.S. SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff

RONALD KINDSCHI, and : SPECTRUM ADMINISTRATION : File No. 3-9784 SPECTRUM ADMINISTRATION, INC. :

Respondents

Richard B. Russell Federal Building 75 Spring Street Atlanta, Georgia

Wednesday, May 28, 1999

The above entitled matter came on for hearing at

8:55 a.m. pursuant to notice.

BEFORE:

JAMES T. KELLY, Administrative Law Judge

DIVERSIFIED REPORTING SERVICES, INC. (202) 296-2929





APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission:

WILLIAM S. DIXON, Attorney WILLIAM A. REES, Attorney U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission 3475 Lenox Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30326-1232

On behalf of the Respondents:

MICHAEL K. WOLENSKY, Attorney DAVID J. GELLEN, Attorney Kutak Rock 225 Peachtree Street, N.E. Suite 2100 Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1731

Also present: ADAM RABIN, Spectrum Administration, Inc. JAMES WARDRICK, Law Clerk

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Witness:	Direct	Cross	Redirect	Recross
David J. Konell	35		** **	
Ronald O. Kindschi	49	102	112	
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Wayne Venckus	150	154	159	
Michael A. Flanagan	161			·
John L. Holloway	221	240		·

EXHIBITS

Division	Description	Marked	Rec'd
1-17	Fax cover sheet from B. Grubin to D. Konell and 6/21/93 letter	37	40
2-20	Screen print of SmartPad/Notes	40	49
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BEFORE THE

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

U.S. SECURITIES & EXCHANGE

COMMISSION,

Plaintiff

v

MICHAEL FLANAGAN,

RONALD KINDSCHI, and : SPECTRUM ADMINISTRATION, INC. :

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Respondents

: File No. 3-9784

Richard B. Russell Federal Building

75 Spring Street Atlanta, Georgia Wednesday, Way 28, 1999

The above entitled matter came on for hearing at 9:30 a.m. pursuant to notice.

BEFORE:

JAMES T. KELLY, Administrative Law Judge

DIVERSIFIED REPORTING SERVICES, INC. (202) 296-2929



APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission:

WILLIAM S. DIXON, Attorney WILLIAM A. REES, Attorney U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission 3475 Lenox Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30326-1232

On behalf of the Respondents:

MICHAEL K. WOLENSKY, Attorney DAVID J. GELLEN, Attorney Kutak Rock 225 Peachtree Street, N.E. Suite 2100 Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1731

Also present: ADAM RABIN, Spectrum Administration, Inc. JAMES WARDRICK, Law Clerk

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Witness:	Direct	Cross	Redirect	Recross
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BEFORE THE

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

VOLUME III OF IV

File No. 3-9784

v.

MICHAEL FLANAGAN, RONALD KINDSCHI, and SPECTRUM ADMINISTRATION, INC.,

Respondents.

U.S. Tax Courtroom 1136 Richard B. Russell Federal Building 75 Spring Street Atlanta, Georgia

Thursday, April 29, 1999

The above-entitled matter came on for further hearing, pursuant to Adjournment, at 9:35 a.m.

BEFORE:

HON. JAMES T. KELLY, Administrative Law Judge

Diversified Reporting Services, Inc. 202.296.2929



APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission:

WILLIAM A. REES, Staff Attorney WILLIAM S. DIXON, Staff Attorney Securities and Exchange Commission 3475 Lenox Road, Suite 1000 Atlanta, Georgia 30326-1232

On behalf of Respondents:

MICHAEL K. WOLENSKY, Attorney-at-Law DAVID J. GELLEN, Attorney-at-Law Kutak Rock 225 Peachtree Street, NE Suite 2100 Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1731

Also present:

ADAM RABIN, Spectrum Administration, Inc. JAMES WARDRICK, Law Clerk

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WITNESSES:	DIRECT	CROSS	REDIRECT	RECROSS
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Diversified Reporting Services, Inc. 202.296.2929

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Diversified Reporting Services, Inc. 202.296.2929

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BEFORE THE

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

VOLUME IV OF IV

File No. 3-9784

v.

MICHAEL FLANAGAN, RONALD KINDSCHI, and SPECTRUM ADMINISTRATION, INC.,

Respondents.

U.S. Tax Courtroom 1136 Richard B. Russell Federal Building 75 Spring Street Atlanta, Georgia

Friday, April 30, 1999

The above-entitled matter came on for further hearing, pursuant to Adjournment, at 9:30 a.m.

BEFORE:

HON. JAMES T. KELLY, Administrative Law Judge

Diversified Reporting Services, Inc. 202.296.2929



APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission:

WILLIAM A. REES, Staff Attorney WILLIAM S. DIXON, Staff Attorney Securities and Exchange Commission 3475 Lenox Road, Suite 1000 Atlanta, Georgia 30326-1232 Assisted by Jim Curtis

On behalf of Respondents:

MICHAEL K. WOLENSKY, Attorney-at-Law DAVID J. GELLEN, Attorney-at-Law Kutak Rock 225 Peachtree Street, NE Suite 2100 Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1731

Also present:

ADAM RABIN, Spectrum Administration, Inc. JAMES WARDRICK, Law Clerk

- 1 Q But I'm talking about back in 1993 and 1994, you
- 2 had a power of attorney, correct?
- 3 A (No audible response)
- 4 Q Mr. Holloway? Did you hear my question?
- 5 A I answered it yes.
- 6 Q I'm sorry, I didn't hear that. Did you have a
- 7 power of attorney or any authority over the Alex Williams
- 8 account?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Who did?
- 11 A My wife, Esther Holloway.
- 12 Q Did you have any authority or power of attorney
- 13 over your wife's IRA account?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q Did she talk with Mr. Flanagan with respect to
- 16 those accounts?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Were you always present in the meetings when those
- 19 conversations occurred?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q You more or less left her business up to her, is
- 22 that fair to say?
- 23 A Yes. I mean, sometimes we would be having joint
- 24 meetings, and it was assumed what he was saying to me also
- 25 effected her in the same way. So the two of us could have

DIVERSIFIED REPORTING SERVICES, INC. (202) 296-2929



1 JUDGE KELLY: -- and her father, Alex Williams. 2 MR. DIXON: That's correct, your Honor. JUDGE KELLY: The Esther Holloway IRA and Alex 3 4 Williams. Those are the customers, are they not? 5 MR. DIXON: That's correct, your Honor. 6 JUDGE KELLY: Okay. Where is the customer 7 testimony as to that? MR. DIXON: Your Honor, the division in its 8 9 previous -- this is not in evidence, your Honor -- in its previous conversations with Mr. Holloway had been informed 10 that he as the patriarch of the family was the one who 11 12 handled all the investments. His testimony in the record, your Honor, did not support that, so the evidence is not 13 there, your Honor. 14 JUDGE KELLY: Where does that leave us as to that 15 narrow issue? 16 MR. DIXON: As to that narrow issue, your Honor, 17 the division concedes that with respect to any allegations 18 with respect to Mr. Flanagan's representations regarding that 19 20 to Ms. Holloway. The division still believes that Mr. Flanagan by 21 not explaining all the rules regarding these transactions to 22 Mr. Holloway, and depriving he and his wife of the 23 opportunity to combine those accounts committed fraud with 24



respect to Mr. Holloway.

25